

the direction of a father of marked energy and excellent 'business judgment. He was afforded the advantages of the well conducted public schools of the village of Clarence, and this training was supplemented by an effective course in the Gem City Business College, at Quincy, Illinois. In 1877, soon after attaining to his legal majority, Mr. Jacobs took up his residence in Lacygne, Kansas, where he was engaged in the grocery business for the ensuing five years, the venture proving successful and affording him excellent business experience of a practical order. In 1882 he returned to his native county and for the ensuing two years he was identified with various business interests in the village of Clarence. At the expiration of this period, January 1, 1884, he engaged in the general merchandise business in this city, a line of enterprise with which he has here continued to be successfully identified since that time. The business was at the start conducted under the firm name of Whitby, Jacobs & Company, his father being a silent partner in the concern and the other active member having been Stephen M. Whitby. The father continued to be passively interested in the enterprise until his demise, and after the death of Mr. Whitby the subject of this sketch continued the business in partnership with his brother, Robert L. Jacobs, until 1898, when he purchased his brother's interest. Since that time he has individually conducted the business under his own name, and his large and well equipped establishment caters most effectively to its extensive and representative patronage. Clothing, boots and shoes, and furnish-

ing goods are handled, and Mr. Jacobs has shown unqualified discrimination in the selection of goods and in meeting the demands of his ever increasing trade.

Mr. Jacobs has not hedged himself in with his personal affairs and the promotion of his business, but has manifested a broad-minded, liberal and loyal attitude as a citizen, giving his influence and co-operation in the support of all measures and enterprises tending to advance the material and civic prosperity of the community. His political allegiance is given to the Democratic party, and, while he has never been ambitious for public office, he has been called upon to serve as a member of the board of city aldermen, of which position he was a valued incumbent for some years. He is an appreciative and popular member of Clarence Lodge, No. 305, Free & Accepted Masons, of which he served as worshipful master for three terms.

On May 29, 1889, Mr. Jacobs was united in marriage to Miss Emma Seeley, who was born in this state, and who is a daughter of the late James Seeley, an honored citizen of Clarence at the time of his death. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs became the parents of four children, of whom one, Mary A., died at the age of four years. The surviving children—Louis S., Aileen and Nellie E.—remain at the parental home, which is a recognized center of gracious hospitality.

#### JOHN W. JACOBS.

A strong, noble, forceful and beneficent influence was that exercised by the

subject of this memoir in connection with the civic affairs and practical business activities of Shelby county, where he long lived and labored to goodly ends, and where his name is revered by all who came within the sphere of his generous and kindly influence. As one who was thoroughly and essentially a representative citizen of the county, there is eminent propriety in according in this volume a tribute of respect and appreciation to his memory.

John Wright Jacobs was born in Greene county, in the eastern part of the state of Tennessee, August 5, 1824, and died at his home in the city of Clarence, Shelby county, Missouri, April 7, 1906, leaving the priceless heritage of a good name, as no spot or blemish rests on any part of his career, now that he has passed forward to the life eternal. His father, Lewis M. Jacobs, was a merchant tailor at Greenville, Tennessee, and among the first of the journeymen tailors employed by him was Andrew Johnson, who eventually became president of the United States, and whose name and fame rest secure in the annals of our nation. Lewis M. Jacobs was a native of Virginia, where the family was founded in the colonial epoch, and the lineage is traced back to staunch Scotch-Irish origin. He was reared and educated in the Old Dominion state, whence, as a young man, he removed to Greenville, Tennessee, where he was engaged in business for a number of years. There was solemnized his marriage to Miss Anna Wright, and a number of years later he removed with his family to Missouri and located in Shelbyville, where he passed the residue of his long

and useful life, a successful business man and sterling citizen, and one whose name merits perpetuation as that of one of the worthy pioneers of Shelby county. His death occurred in 1868, and his cherished and devoted wife preceded him to eternal rest by about one year. They became the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this memoir was the eldest. The father secured a tract of land near Shelbyville, and there gave his attention to farming, in connection with other business enterprises. On this old homestead his children were reared to maturity.

John W. Jacobs was a boy at the time of the family removal to Missouri, and he contributed his quota to the development of the home farm near Shelbyville, in the meanwhile availing himself of such advantages as were offered by the common schools of the locality and period. He remained at home and assisted in the management of the farm until two years after his marriage, which was solemnized in 1855. In 1857 he purchased and established his home upon a farm in Clay township, this county, developing the same into one of the model places of the county, and there continuing to be actively identified with agricultural pursuits and stock-growing until 1873, when he disposed of his farm and removed to the village of Clarence, where he became a dealer in lumber, agricultural implements and grain, in connection with which important lines of enterprise he built up a large and substantial trade and gained precedence as one of the vigorous, far-sighted and progressive business men of the county. In 1876 he disposed of this business, and

thereafter he continued to be identified with other lines of enterprise of varied order until 1884, in January of which year he and his son, William L., secured a half interest in the general merchandise business which was thereafter conducted under the firm name of Whitby, Jacobs & Company, the son assuming the active management of the business, which he still continues, as will be noted by reference to the sketch of his career appearing on other pages of this work. In this connection John W. Jacobs gave the benefit of his keen business sagacity and mature experience, but, save for this advisory service in the business, he lived virtually retired from 1890 until his death. He was regarded as one of the best business men and most upright and honorable citizens of this part of the county, where his circle of friends was coincident with that of his acquaintances. Though never a seeker of public office or of notoriety of any order, Mr. Jacobs wielded a large and beneficent influence in local affairs, and his advice and counsel were frequently sought in connection with matters of public polity, the while he gave freely of his aid and influence in support of all that touched the best interests of the community.

In politics Mr. Jacobs was aligned as a loyal supporter of the principles and policies for which the Democratic party stands sponsor, he was affiliated with Clarence Lodge, No. 305, Free & Accepted Masons, and he was a most zealous and devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, having been one of the charter members of the church of this denomination in Clarence, as is also his wife. Upon him de-

veloped the privilege of turning the first spade of earth for the erection of the church edifice. She survives her honored husband and finds a measure of consolation and compensation in the gracious memories of their long years of loving companionship. She was born in Delaware, near Laurel, February 15, 1836, and thus has passed the psalmist's span of three score years and ten. She is held in affectionate regard by all who know her, and still maintains her home in Clarence, where she is surrounded by a wide circle of devoted friends.

On February 15, 1855, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Jacobs to Miss Mary A. Drain, daughter of the late Stanford Drain, one of the honored pioneers of Shelby county. Of the six children of this union, four are living, namely: William L., of whom specific mention is made elsewhere in this volume; Anna E., who remains with her widowed mother; Robert L., who is a representative business man of Clarence; and Cassie L., who is the wife of Albert Marley, of Kansas City, Missouri.

#### DR. HENRY M. POLLARD.

A practicing physician and surgeon among them during the last twenty-two years, and throughout the whole period performing his professional duties and those of elevated citizenship to their entire satisfaction, Dr. Henry M. Pollard, of Shelbina, won the regard of the people of Shelby county on his merits by proving himself to be a very useful man and deeply and intelligently interested in the welfare of the region in which he lived and labored. He was active and